

West Ashley Senior Services Coordinating Committee (WASSCC)

18 January 2012

Attendees: Terry Brown, Colleen Condon, Christine DeStephano, Bill Greenhill, Jan Harman, Diane Hamilton, Dave Harris, Montez Martin, Vic Rawl, Janet Schumacher, Brenda Smith.

Location: The meeting took place at Bees Landing Recreation Complex.

Special Event

Dave Harris reported that the Special Event Committee has met and established that next WASSCC special event/community forum will be titled "Up, Up and Away" and will be held on Leap Day, 29 February 2012 at Founders' Hall (Charles Towne Landing State Park) from 4-7 p.m.

Dave distributed a report that described the planning to-date including activities provided by instructors who teach a variety of classes for seniors in the West Ashley area (zumba gold, pilates, chair fitness, ballroom and line dancing, martial arts for seniors, yoga) and outdoor activities like bocce and croquet. Throughout there will be ample opportunities for socialization and refreshments. Refreshments will most likely be finger food, appetizers and drinks. A lengthy discussion followed with other ideas offered and considered. Space will be made available for booths for such organizations as AARP, Bees Landing/City Recreation, CCR, JCC, St. Andrews Park and Rec., Salvation Army and others.

Marketing and promotion was discussed.

The next meeting of the Special Event Committee will be at 0930 (a.m.) on Wednesday, 25 January, at the Bees Landing Recreation Center. All are invited.

Site Selection

From Nov. minutes: "Colleen Condon announced that under the guidance of the City of Charleston's Procurement Office the WASSCC Review Committee met on 4 November at 3 p.m. to review two proposals and from that review the Committee recommended the proposal submitted by Roper Saint Francis Healthcare (RSFH). This now sets in motion a process whereby the City of Charleston, through its Procurement Office, will negotiate a contract with RSFHC based on the elements of the proposal. Once the terms of the contract are agreed upon the contract will be submitted to City Council for review and approval, and then to County Council for review and approval. Janet Schumacker and Christine Durant will work together to see if a more firm time-line for this process can be developed."

Colleen Condon and Janet Schumacher reported that the negotiations are continuing but elements clarified to date are: RSF offering a plot of land adjacent to the St. Francis Hospital for the construction of the WA Senior Center; the land offer is not to own, but to lease (reportedly for a token annual fee); RSF Foundation will help raise funds; RSF will manage the center for an as yet unspecified fee; the WA will be unique to reflect WA needs and not necessarily a replica of the Lowcountry Senior Center. Negotiations will continue and all options and elements regarding a final partnership/contract remain "on the table".

Janet stated that based on the City and County estimates the cost of building the facility will be in the several millions.

It is estimated that the WA Senior Center may not open for 2-3 years, therefore a discussion broke out regarding the possibility of establishing a "transition" senior center. Ideas discussed in times-gone-by were revisited: setting up in an unused/lightly used City recreation facility, re-vitalizing the virtual senior

center, creating a community calendar of senior activities to be published and distributed on a regular schedule. A subcommittee was organized to look at the activities calendar concept.

Note: A "calendar/newsletter" was also discussed at the November meeting with a similar subcommittee apparently already organized. The following is reprint of that discussion/action:

"Once again this generated a lot of general input/comments with the following highlights:

- * Establish a newsletter to be published on a regular schedule that provides a listing of senior events, organization meetings, activities, etc., that are scheduled in the West Ashley area and is distributed in the West Ashley area.*
- * The content of newsletter should be coordinated with the content of the website.*
- * Combine the publication of the 1st edition of the newsletter with the announcement/invitation for the "leap day" community forum.*
- * Need to form a committee to plan/establish the newsletter and consider items like budget, content gathering, formatting, publishing, distribution, fund-raising and sponsors/advertisement.*
- * Tom Witman and Dave Harris were indicated as the co-leads for this project/effort."*

Next WASSCC Meeting: Wednesday, 15 February 2012, 0930-1100, at the Bees Landing Recreation Complex